

REPORT OF "TAR" AND NICOTINE CONTENT OF
THE SMOKE OF 176 VARIETIES OF CIGARETTES

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The Federal Trade Commission's Laboratory has determined the "tar" (dry particulate matter) and total alkaloid (reported as nicotine) content of 176 varieties of cigarettes. The laboratory utilized the Cambridge filter method with the following specifications as set forth in the Commission's announcement of July 31, 1967:

1. Smoke cigarettes to a 23 mm. butt length, or to the length of the filter and overwrap plus 3 mm. if in excess of 23 mm.
2. Base results on a test of 100 cigarettes per brand, or type.
3. Cigarettes to be tested will be selected on a random basis, as opposed to "weight selection".
4. Determine particulate matter on a "dry" basis employing the gas chromatography method published by C. H. Sloan and B. J. Sublett in Tobacco Science 9, page 70, 1965, as modified by F. J. Schultz' and A. W. Spears' report published in Tobacco Vol. 162, No. 24, page 32, dated June 17, 1966, to determine the moisture content.
5. Determine and report the "tar" content after subtracting moisture and alkaloids (as nicotine) from particulate matter.

Concerning the 176 varieties tested, 18 were capable of being smoked to 23 mm. The butt length of the other 158 varieties tested ranged from 24.1 mm. to an average of between 47.7 and 49.5. The butt lengths of 135 of the 176 varieties tested exceeded 30 mm.

The samples used were obtained by attempting to purchase two packages of each variety of cigarettes as distributed by the seven domestic cigarette manufacturers during April 1979 in each of 50 geographic locations throughout the country. All varieties of cigarettes were not available in each of the 50 geographic locations and in these instances, one or more additional packages of cigarettes were purchased in those geographic locations where respective varieties were available. The samples utilized in the tests were representative of the 176 varieties of cigarettes as available throughout the country at the time of purchase.

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